

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 05188 211354Z

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ACTION OPR-01

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R 211115Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9900

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5188

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, SWEL, SREF, CB, US

SUBJECT: E&E: VOLAG PERSONNEL

1. I MET WITH DIRECTORS OF CARE, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE, WORLD VISION AND THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ON MARCH 20. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VOLAG'S WORK AT THIS TIME AND TO ASSURE THEM THAT THEY ENJOY THE SAME PRIORITY AS EMBASSY STAFF IF IT SHOULD EVER COME TO AN EVACUATION. I THEREFORE HOPED THAT THE VOLAGS WOULD KEEP THE NECESSARY STAFF IN-COUNTRY TO FULFILL THEIR MISSION.

2. SPECIFICALLY I STATED:

(A) VOLAGS SHOULD MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT TO GET PL-480 TITLE II AID TO THE GREATEST NUMBER OF NEEDY PEOPLE.

(B) TO GIVE THE VOLAG STAFFS PEACE OF MIND I WISHED TO ASSURE THEM THAT THEIR PERSONNEL-BOTH AMERICAN AND TCN- ARE FULLY COVERED UNDER THE SAME EVACUATION PROCEDURES AS THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN MISSION.

(C) FOR SECURITY REASONS, THE VOLAGS SHOULD BE WORKING OUT OF PHNOM PENH TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE. IF THEY MUST WORK IN THE PROVINCES, THEY SHOULD MAINTAIN OFFICES AND STAY OVERNIGHT ONLY IN THOSE PROVINCIAL CAPITALS WHERE THE EMBASSY ALSO HAS REPRESENTATION. IN THOSE TOWNS WHERE THE EMBASSY IS NOT REPRESENTED, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 05188 211354Z

VOLAG PERSONNEL SHOULD NOT STAY OVERNIGHT.

(D) IN THOSE ENCLAVES WHERE THE EMBASSY IS NOT REPRESENTED, FOR EXAMPLE, KOMPONG THOM, VOLAGS MAY WISH TO SEND PEOPLE TO SUPERVISE THEIR PROGRAMS FOR THE DAY, BUT SHOULD RETURN TO THEIR HOME BASE (PHNOM PENH) FOR THE NIGHT.

3. THE ABOVE GUIDELINES WERE ACCEPTED BY CARE, WORLD VISION AND CRS. THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HAS INDICATED THAT OF THE 33 TCN'S WORKING IN CAMBODIA ONLY 18 WANT TO BE EVACUATED BY THE USG IN EXTREMIS, WHILE THE REMAINING 15 WOULD STAY BEHIND. CRC ALSO WORKS ON THE BASIS OF THE ABOVE STATED GUIDELINES.
DEAN

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